

Workforce Partnership of Greater Rhode Island

Youth Council Meeting Minutes

April 24, 2008

Rhode Island Department of Labor & Training, 69-1

Members Present: Everett Amaral, Sue Babin, Alberto Deburgo, Kathleen Stoddart, Alexis Devine, Joseph DiPina, Sharon Gainey, Lissa Dreyer, Johan Uvin, and Elizabeth Gilheeney.

Absent Members: Andrew DeTora, Dorothy Mattiello, Michael Montanaro, Scott Seaback, Vanessa Cooley, Joseph Crowley, Andrew Tyska, and Joseph DeSantis.

Staff: Patrice Cavanaugh, Arthur Jodoin, Carlos Ribeiro, Nick Ucci, and Karen Waters.

Guests: Steve Kitchin.

With a quorum present, Vice Chair Sue Babin called the meeting to order at 1:43 p.m.

Minutes of the February 12, 2008 Meeting

Vice Chair Babin asked the Council to review the minutes of the February 12, 2008 meeting. One spelling correction was noted.

Vote: Elizabeth Gilheeney motioned to accept the minutes as

corrected, Joseph DiPina seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

PY2007 Youth Programs Update

Carlos Ribeiro reviewed the status of enrollments for the current youth programs. He noted that total WIA youth served for PY07 were 67 percent of planned enrollment with 148 enrollments. Carlos stated that 922 youth were to be served under PY07 contracts, and that presently, the WPGRI was at 91 percent of that level. He noted that the WPGRI was on track to serve an estimated 1,600 JDF youth in PY08.

Steve Kitchen asked if the WPGRI will meet its WIA performance measures for youth. Nick Ucci stated that the organization was in danger of failing three measures due to past poor-performing contracts, which had been deobligated by the Board. He explained that those contracts were anticipated to rollout of the WIA measurements after the 4th quarter of the program year. Also, Nick Ucci stated that performance improved in three measures over-the-quarter.

Sue Babin asked if the WPGRI RFPs require that vendors submit annual outcome reports. Carlos answered that staff compile these reports regularly for internal review and that they are also submitted to the SWIO. Sue stated that she would like to review these reports, as well as an reports explaining the content of the programs being

conducted. Nick Ucci stated that the WPGRI is in the process of revamping its website and is also working with the DLT to further develop a statewide Youth Web Portal, where program information will be available. Nick Ucci agreed about the importance of providing performance measurement data to the Youth Council and stated that the staff would work on this issue in the future.

At this time, Nick Ucci reminded Council members about the remaining agenda topics and asked if any members needed to recuse themselves. Kathleen Stoddart recused herself from the meeting.

PY2008 Youth Services RFP

Nick Ucci stated that, after a review of current Youth Center contracts, the WPGRI was unable to extend those contracts as previously intended. Thus, Nick explained that the WPGRI would RFP for these services and modify existing contracts to bridge the time gap, ensuring that services would continue to be delivered to area youth without interruption.

Nick Ucci stated that, as a result of this change and further review of the organization's internal budget, enough funding was identified to possibly fund a previously submitted proposal by The Homestead Group to conduct work experience activities. This proposal had met the previous RFPs threshold, but was not funded at that time due to lack of dollars. The proposal was requesting \$91,918 to serve 24 youth ages 14-24 from the northern RI area.

Vote: Lissa Dreyer motioned that the Youth Council recommend to the Board funding of a youth services contract with The Homestead Group for \$91,918.34 to serve 24 area youth with work experience activities. Elizabeth Gilheeney seconded. The motion passed.

Kathleen Stoddart returned to the meeting.

As a result of the decision to modify existing Youth Center contracts, Carlos explained that the WPGRI would have to RFP for three area Youth Centers during the summer: Pawtucket, Northern RI, and South County. Also, he noted that proposals for stand-alone WIA programs would also be included in this round of RFPs. Nick Ucci explained that the new Youth Center contracts would be written through March 2010 so that all of the state's Youth Center contracts would be on the same funding cycle. He noted that, in the future, this would allow the WPGRI to conduct one comprehensive RFP for all of its youth services needs. He also noted that the Youth Council could consider writing multi-year contracts, explaining that the Youth Council would vote for one-year of funding, with an option-to-renew for two one-year periods of performance based on funding and program/vendor results. Johan Uvin asked about the limitations for Youth Centers having multi-year contracts. Nick Ucci stated that it might assist vendors in their ability to continuously enroll youth and increase service levels without having to worry about losing the contract at the end of the first program year. Also, Nick explained that there were

numerous administrative benefits, including the organization's ability to align contract dollars and reducing the burden of conducting multiple RFPs over the course of a year.

Nick Ucci informed the Youth Council that he and Joe Cannon had met with the co-chairs of the Providence/Cranston Youth Council to discuss increased collaboration between the two Boards and their Youth Councils. He explained that out of this meeting came a recommendation that the two Youth Councils form a joint RFP committee to review the existing RFP process and enhance its value. He asked if there were volunteers to help conduct this important work. Joe DiPina, Everett Amaral, and Liz Gilheeney volunteered to join this joint committee. Nick stated that the staff would be in touch shortly with meeting details.

Steve Kitchen stated that Chairman Joe Cannon would not be able to participate in Board activities for some time due to illness. In the interim, Steve stated that the Board would like to appoint a Chairperson for the Youth Council and that he had hoped that an individual would be identified soon.

There being no other business,

Vote: Lissa Dreyer motioned to adjourn the meeting, Joe DiPina seconded. The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nick Ucci